

- **Roadway Conditions**

- **Existing Characteristics**

- Old NC 18 is located in the far northwestern part of the planning area. The roadway is a two-lane undivided cross-section, approximately eighteen feet in width without shoulders with a speed limit of 55 mph.

- **System Linkages**

- **Existing Bicycle Networks**

- Old NC 18 is designated as part of the NC Bike Route 6 (Piedmont Spur) which provides direct connectivity between Lincolnton and Cat Square. NC Bike Route 6 serves as a 200-mile southern alternate to the Piedmont portion of the NC Bike Route 2 (Mountains to Sea). These two routes meet in Burke County and in Alamance County.

- **Transportation Plans**

- Old NC 18 is designated as an on-road bicycle facility on the CTP. The existing roadway will need to be widened to a two-lane undivided four-foot shoulders in order to achieve this type of facility in the future. Old NC 18 or NC 6-bicycle route is also included as a designated state bicycle route.

- **Social, Economic, and Environmental Conditions Networks**

- **Demographics**

- The existing minority population along Old NC 18 is similar to the county average, while the income level is about 75% below the county average.

- **Economic**

- Future economic growth along Old NC 18 is not foreseeable due to the watershed.

- **Environmental**

- There are no known human and natural environmental features in the area.

- **Cost Estimates**

- The cost estimate for this recommendation is based on widening the existing roadway to NCDOT standards, adding an additional four foot shoulder for bicyclists, and mitigating for possible impacts to wetlands. The cost estimate for this recommended facility is \$6,616,600.

Optimist Club Road (SR 1380)

- **Summary of Need**

- There is a need to improve Optimist Club Road within the planning area to provide a safer bicycle facility.

- **Summary of Purpose**

- Improving the existing Optimist Club Road should enable the roadway to accommodate automobiles and bicycles, while providing a safer facility for cyclists and children.

- **Roadway Conditions**

- **Existing Characteristics**

- Optimist Club Road, which runs from east to west through the eastern portion of the planning area, provides access to NC 16 to St. James